



February 12, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to design and adopt a certificate of licensure for issuance to educators that contains certain official information. Requires DOE to provide an educator a certificate of licensure printed on paper and that is suitable for framing upon an educator's request. Authorizes the Commissioner of DOE to establish a fee to be paid by educators to offset the cost of providing the printed certificate. Requires DOE to provide educators access to the online educator licensing portal so that an educator may view and print a high-resolution copy of the educator's certificate of licensure at no cost.

FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$15,000/FY22-23
\$3,000/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years**

Other Fiscal Impact – The Department of Education will incur additional expenditures for issuing certificates; however, any such expenditures will be offset by an equal amount of revenue from fees set by the Department.

Assumptions:

- DOE currently offers educators the option of downloading a high-resolution color PDF of their license, suitable for framing, from within their educator profile in TNCompass, the department's online licensure portal.
- The proposed legislation will require additional information to be added the certificate of licensure, which must include the:
 - Highest level of education attained by the educator; and
 - The signature of the Governor and Commissioner of DOE under the state of Tennessee seal.
- DOE will be able to add signatures to the current printable licenses at no additional cost; however, DOE currently does not have the ability to reasonably determine the educator's degree level attained.
- DOE will need to modify the TNCompass Educator Management System in order to comply with the proposed requirements.
- Based on similar modifications to TNCompass, it is estimated that creation of a workflow and transaction type to capture highest-level degree obtained would cost up to

\$15,000 in initial development costs in FY22-23 with \$3,000 in recurring maintenance costs in FY23-24 and subsequent years.

- There are 122,250 currently licensed teachers (not including school services personnel and instructional leaders) and DOE currently licenses an average of 7,000 new educators per year.
- The precise number of annual educators that will request printed certificates of licensure for a fee are unknown. Based on information provided by Media Services within the Department of General Services, printing and mailing costs are estimated to as follows:
 - \$0.11 per 8.5 x 11 certificate of licensure;
 - \$0.13 per 9 x 12 envelope with printing;
 - \$0.42 per item first class mail pre-sort; and
 - \$0.05 per item mailing services.
- The total average cost per printed and mailed certificate is estimated to be \$0.71. In addition, DOE may require increased staff resources depending on the number of such requests.
- DOE will set a fee in order to offset the \$0.71 cost per certificate and any additional expenditures related to issuing such certificates, including but not limited to staffing expenditures.
- The precise impact to DOE revenue and expenditures related to issuing such certificates is dependent on multiple unknown factors; however, any net impact will be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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